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(202) 514-4169

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CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

37.

VALLEY WOOD PRESERVING, INC., FONTANA WOOD PRESERVING, INC, HAROLD LOGSDON, JOYCE LOGSDON, and MICHAEL LOGSDON,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION No. F94-5984 REC SSH

PARTIAL CONSENT DECREE

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### I. BACKGROUND

A. The United States of America ("United States"), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), filed a complaint in this matter pursuant to Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, as amended ("CERCLA"), against Harold Logsdon, Joyce Logsdon, Michael Logsdon, Valley Wood Preserving, Inc. ("VWP"), and Fontana Wood Preserving, Inc. ("FWP"), seeking reimbursement of response costs incurred and to be incurred by the United States for response actions taken at or in connection with the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at the Valley Wood Preserving Superfund Site in Turlock, Stanislaus County, California ("the Site").

B. The Attorney General of the State of California, on behalf of certain named plaintiffs, also filed a complaint against Defendants in this Court (originally designated Case No. CV-F-94-6055 OWW DLB, and subsequently reassigned and consolidated with the instant case) alleging that Defendants are liable to the State under Section 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607. The State Plaintiffs have since settled their claims against all of the named defendants by Consent Judgment entered by this Court on November 9, 1995.

C. In accordance with the Court's order of February 5, 1996, Defendants Harold Logsdon, Joyce Logsdon, VWP, and Michael Logsdon are jointly and severally liable under CERCLA for all past and future costs not inconsistent with the National

- D. This Consent Decree will resolve the potential liability of FWP and Michael Logsdon ("the Settling Defendants"). By entering into this Consent Decree, FWP does not admit any liability to Plaintiff arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the complaint.
- E. The United States and Settling Defendants agree, and this Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the United States and the Settling Defendants in good faith, that settlement of this matter will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Settling Defendants and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

THEREFORE, with the consent of the Parties to this Decree, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

#### II. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613(b) and also has personal jurisdiction over Settling Defendants. Settling Defendants consent to and shall not challenge entry of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Consent Decree.

# III. PARTIES BOUND

2. This Consent Decree is binding upon the United States, and upon Settling Defendants and their heirs, successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate or other legal

status, including but not limited to, any transfer of assets of real or personal property, shall in no way alter the status or responsibilities of Settling Defendants under this Consent Decree.

#### IV. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

- 3. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree which are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in any appendix attached hereto, the following definitions shall apply:
- a. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et seq.
- b. "Consent Decree" shall mean this Consent Decree and all appendices attached hereto. In the event of conflict between this Consent Decree and any appendix, the Consent Decree shall control.
- c. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.
- d. "DOJ" shall mean the United States Department of Justice and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.

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- "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- f. "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" shall mean the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. \$ 9507.
- "ESD" shall mean the Explanation of Significant Differences issued by EPA on July 22, 1994.
- "Future Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States incur[s] in reviewing or developing plans, reports, other documentary items, verifying, implementing, or overseeing any work, or other activities related to the performance of future response actions at the Valley Wood Preserving Superfund Site, including, but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, and laboratory costs, subsequent to June 30, 1996, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such date.
- "Interest" shall mean interest at the current rate specified for interest on investments of the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a).
- j. "Non-Settling Defendants" shall mean Harold Logsdon, Joyce Logsdon, and Valley Wood Preserving, Inc., both individually and collectively.

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- "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Consent k. Decree identified by an arabic numeral or an upper or lower case
- "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including but not limited to direct and indirect costs, that EPA or DOJ on behalf of EPA has incurred at or in connection with the Site through June 30, 1996, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such date.
  - "Plaintiff" shall mean the United States.
- "Record of Decision" or "ROD" shall mean the EPA n. Record of Decision relating to the Site signed on September 27, 1991, by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX, or his/her delegatee, and all attachments thereto.
- "Section" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a roman numeral.
- "Settling Defendants" shall mean Michael Logsdon and Fontana Wood Preserving, Inc. ("FWP"), both individually and collectively.
- "Site" shall mean the Valley Wood Preserving Superfund site, encompassing approximately 14.4 acres, located at 2237 South Golden Gate Boulevard in Turlock, Stanislaus County, California, and depicted more clearly on the map included in Appendix B.
- r. "United States" shall mean the United States of America, including its departments, agencies and instrumentalities.

### V. REINBURSEMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS

Substance Superfund. Within 30 days of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendants shall pay to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund \$1,500,000.00, in reimbursement of a portion of the Past Response Costs, plus an additional sum for Interest on that amount calculated from the date set forth in the definition of Past Response Costs through the date of payment. Settling Defendants are not precluded from making this payment prior to entry of the Consent Decree, provided, however, that any such early payment shall be at their own risk. In the event that payment is made on the date that Settling Defendants execute the Decree, the United States will waive payment by those defendants of the additional sum for Interest required by this paragraph.

Payment shall be made by certified check(s) (referencing USAO File Number 9402520, EPA Region IX and Site Spill ID Number CAK5, and DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-835) in accordance with instructions provided to Settling Defendants by the Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of California. Any payments received by the Department of Justice after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time shall be credited on the next business day. Settling Defendants shall send notice to EPA and DOJ that payment has been made in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions).

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Interest on Late Payments. In the event that any payment[s] required by Section V (Reimbursement of Response Costs) or Section VI, Paragraph 6 (Stipulated Penalties), are not received when due, Interest shall continue to accrue on the unpaid balance through the date of payment.

# Stipulated Penalties.

- If any amounts due to EPA under this Consent Decree are not paid by the required date, Settling Defendants shall pay to EPA as a stipulated penalty, in addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 5, \$1,000 per violation per day that such payment is late.
- Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days of the date of the demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. All payments to EPA under this Paragraph shall be made by certified or cashier's check made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" and shall be sent to the payment address specified in Section XII. All payments shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties and shall reference the name and address of the party making payment, the EPA Region and Site Spill ID Number CAK5, USAO File Number 9402520, and DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-835. Copies of check[s] paid pursuant to this Paragraph, and any accompanying transmittal letter[s], shall be sent to EPA and DOJ as provided in Section XII (Notices and Submissions).
- Penalties shall accrue as provided in this Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Settling

Defendants of the violation or made a demand for payment, but need only be paid upon demand. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after complete performance is due or the day a violation occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final day of correction of the noncompliance or completion of the activity. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

- 7. If the United States brings an action to enforce this Consent Decree, Settling Defendants shall reimburse the United States for all costs of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.
- 8. Payments made under Paragraphs 5-7 shall be in addition to any other remedies or sanctions available to Plaintiff by virtue of Settling Defendants' failure to comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree.
- 9. The obligations of Settling Defendants to pay amounts owed the United States under this Consent Decree are joint and several. In the event of the failure of one of the Settling Defendants to make the payments required under this Consent Decree, the other Settling Defendant shall be responsible for such payments.
- 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive payment of any portion of the stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Consent Decree.

PLAINTIFF'S RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS

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criminal liability;

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Covenant Not to Sue by United States. Except as 11. specifically provided in Paragraphs 12 and 13 (Reservations of Rights by United States) the United States covenants not to sue Settling Defendants pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), to recover Past or Future Response Costs. covenant not to sue shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of all payments required by Section V, Paragraph 4 (Payment of Past Response Costs to the United States) and Section VI, Paragraphs 5 (Interest on Late Payments) and 6 (Stipulated Penalties for Late This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Defendants of their obligations under this Consent Decree. This covenant not to sue extends only to Settling Defendants and does not extend to any other person.

- The covenant not to sue set forth in Paragraph 11 does 12. not pertain to any matters other than those expressly specified therein. The United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Defendants with respect to all other matters, including but not limited to:
- liability for failure of Settling Defendants to meet a requirement of this Consent Decree;
- liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;

 d. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the United States that are not within the definition of Past Response Costs and Future Response Costs; and

- e. any and all claims arising under the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act.
- 13. As to Settling Defendant Michael Logsdon, the covenant not to sue set forth in paragraph 11 shall not apply if the Non-Settling Defendants fail to fully and completely perform to EPA's satisfaction any future response action(s) (within the meaning of CERCLA) relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, the response actions set forth in the ROD, ESD, and Administrative Order on Consent, U.S. EPA Docket No. 95-11 ("AOC 95-11"), effective March 29, 1995 (attached hereto as Appendix "A"). In the event that the covenant not to sue does not apply for the reason set forth in the preceding sentence, Micheal Logsdon may assert any legal defense otherwise available to him in a subsequent action brought against him by the United States.

#### IX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY SETTLING DEFENDANTS

- 14. Settling Defendants covenant not to sue and agree not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to Past Response Costs or Future Response Costs, or other matters addressed by this Consent Decree, including but not limited to:
- a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;

- b. any claim arising out of response actions at the Site for which the Past Response Costs were incurred;
- c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to Past Response Costs; and
- d. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law relating to any future response actions taken at the Site.
- 15. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute approval or preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. 300.700(d).

### X. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION

- 16. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any party not a signatory to this Consent Decree. Each of the settling parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which each settling party may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a settling party hereto.
- 17. The United States and the Settling Defendants agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that Settling Defendants are entitled, as of the effective date of this Consent Decree, to protection from contribution actions or

claims as provided by Section 113(f)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2), for "matters addressed" in this Consent Decree. The "matters addressed" in this Consent Decree are Past Response Costs and Future Response Costs. If, for the reasons set forth in paragraph 13, the covenant not to sue is inapplicable as to Defendant Michael Logsdon, then he will not longer be entitled to contribution protection with respect to Future Response Costs.

- 18. Each Settling Defendant agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Consent Decree, it will notify EPA and DOJ in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Each Settling Defendant also agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against it for matters related to this Consent Decree, it will notify EPA and DOJ in writing within 10 days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, each Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ within 10 days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment, and within 10 days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Consent Decree.
- 19. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Site, Settling Defendants shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by the

United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff set forth in Section VII.

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### XI. RETENTION OF RECORDS

- 20. Until 10 years after the entry of this Consent Decree, each Settling Defendant shall preserve and retain all records and documents now in its possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to response actions taken at the Site or the liability of any person for response actions conducted and to be conducted at the Site, regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.
- 21. After the conclusion of the document retention period in the preceding paragraph, Settling Defendants shall notify EPA and DOJ at least 60 days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and, upon request by EPA or DOJ, Settling Defendants shall deliver any such records or documents to EPA. Settling Defendants may assert that certain documents, records, or other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Defendants assert such a privilege, they shall provide Plaintiff with the following: 1) the title of the document, record, or information; 2) the date of the document, record, or information; 3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or information; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the document, record, or information; and 6) the privilege asserted. However,

no documents, reports, or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other consent decree with the United States shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged. If a claim of privilege applies only to a portion of a document, the document shall be provided to Plaintiff in redacted form to mask the privileged information only. Settling Defendants shall retain all records and documents that they claim to be privileged until the United States has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege claim and any such dispute has been resolved in the Settling Defendants' favor.

- 22. By signing this Consent Decree, each Settling Defendant certifies individually that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, it has:
- a. conducted a thorough, comprehensive, good faith search for documents, and has fully and accurately disclosed to EPA, all information, including financial information, currently in its possession, or in the possession of its officers, directors, employees, contractors or agents, which relates in any way to a Settling Defendant's financial condition, to the ownership, operation or control of the Site, or to the ownership, possession, generation, treatment, transportation, storage or disposal of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant at or in connection with the Site;
- b. not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, documents or other information relating to its potential liability regarding the Site, or its financial condition, after notification of potential liability or

the filing of a suit against the Settling Defendant regarding the Site; and

c. fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information regarding the Site pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e).

## XII. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

23. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, notice is required to be given or a document is required to be sent by one party to another, it shall be directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice of a change to the other Parties in writing. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States, EPA, DOJ, and Settling Defendants, respectively.

# As to the United States:

Chief
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice (DJ # 90-11-3-835)
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044

### As to EPA:

David Rabbino, Esq. (RC-3-1)
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Michelle Lau (H-6-2)
Hazardous Waste Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA

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EPA Region IX [for payments only] ATTN: Superfund Accounting

P.O. Box 360863M

Pittsburgh, PA 15221

## As to Settling Defendant Fontana Wood Preserving, Inc.:

Richard Crossman, Esq.
Parichan, Renberg, Crossman & Harvey
2350 West Shaw
Fresno, CA 93711

### As to Settling Defendant Michael Logsdon:

David D. Doyle, Esq. Law Offices of David D. Doyle 1795 North Fine Fresno, CA 93727

### XIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

24. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of interpreting and enforcing the terms of this Consent Decree.

#### XIV. INTEGRATION/APPENDICES

25. This Consent Decree and its appendices constitute the final, complete and exclusive agreement and understanding among the settling parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Consent Decree. The settling parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Consent Decree. The following appendices are attached to and incorporated into this Consent Decree: "Appendix A" is AOC 95-11; "Appendix B" is the map of the Site.

# XV. APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

26. If for any reason this Court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this agreement is

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1 voidable at the sole discretion of any party and the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

The effective date of this Consent Decree shall be the date upon which it is entered by the Court.

### XVI. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE

- Each undersigned representative of a Settling Defendant to this Consent Decree certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and bind legally such Party to this document.
- Each Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree, unless the United States has notified Settling Defendants in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.
- Each Settling Defendant shall identify on the attached signature page the name and address of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on behalf of that party with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendants hereby agree to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including but not limited to, service of a summons.

United States Distr

1	THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of <u>U.S. v. Valley Wood Preserving</u> , et al., CV-F94-5984 RESSH relating to the Valley Wood Preserving Superfund Site.							
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1 2 3 4 5 6	THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of U.S. v. Valley Wood Preserving, et al., CV-F94-5984 REC SSH relating to the Valley Wood Preserving Superfund Site.  FOR DEFENDANT Michael Logsdon  Date: 9-9-96 Michael Logsdon									
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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the United States' Partial Consent Decree was sent by U.S. mail on the 21st day of March, 1997 to:

David D. Doyle, Esq. Law Offices of David D. Doyle 1795 North Fine Fresno, CA 93727

Richard C. Crossman, Esq.
Parichan, Renberg, Crossman & Harvey
2350 West Shaw Avenue, #130
Fresno, CA 93711-3412

Valencia R. Brown

United States District Court for the Eastern District of California March 27, 1997

\* \* CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE \* \*

1:94-cv-05984

USA

v.

Valley Wood

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California.

That on March 27, 1997, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office lelivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Richard Charles Crossman
Parichan Renberg Crossman and Harvey
2350 West Shaw Avenue
Suite 130
Fresno, CA 93711

REC

David Douglas Doyle Doyle Penner and Bradley 5250 North Palm Avenue Suite 401 Fresno, CA 93704

Randall Mark Penner Law Office of Randall M Penner 1795 North Fine Avenue Fresno, CA 93727

Daniel S Jacobs
United States Department of Justice
Environmental Enforcement Section
Land and Natural Resources Division
P.O. Box 7611 Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Linda Anderson
United States Attorney's Office
1130 O Street

Room 3654 Fresno, CA 93721

Noel Wise United States Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section P O Box 7611 Washington, DC 20044-7611

Jack L. Wagner, Clerk

BY:

Députy Clerk